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THE

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

BRITISH BIRDS;

OR, A

SELECTION OF THE MOST RARE, BEAUTIFUL, AND INTERESTING

BIRDS

WHICH INHABIT THIS COUNTRY:

THE DESCRIPTIONS FROM THE

SYSTEMA NATURÆ

OF

LINNÆUS;

WITH

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS,

EITHER ORIGINAL, OR COLLECTED FROM THE LATEST AND MOST ESTEEMED

ENGLISH ORNITHOLOGISTS;

AND EMBELLISHED WITH

FIGURES,

DRAWN, ENGRAVED, AND COLOURED FROM THE ORIGINAL SPECIMENS.

BY E. DONOVAN.

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PLATE CXXV.

COLUMBA TURTUR.

TURTLE DOVE.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſtraight, deſcending towards the tip: noſtrils oblong, and half covered with a ſoft tumid membrane.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail feathers tipped with white: back grey: breaſt fleſh colour: each ſide the neck a ſpot of black feathers with white tips.

COLUMBA TURTUR: rectricibus apice albis, dorſo griſeo, pectore incarnato, macula laterali colli nigra lineolis albis. *Scop. Ann.* 1. *n.* 181.

Turtur. *Olin. ucc.* 84.—*Briſſ. av.* 1. *p.* 92. *n.* 7.—*Norzem. nederl. Vogel. t.* 6.

Tourterelle. *Buff. Hiſt. Oiſ.* 2. *p.* 545. *t.* 25.—*Pl. Enl. n.* 394.

Turtle, or Turtle-dove. *Brit. Zool.* 1. *n.* 102 *t.* 45.—*Albin. av.* 2. *t.* 47.

PLATE CXXV.

Turtle Doves inhabit Europe, and ſome parts of Aſia, being met with in China, and India. In Britain they are not uncommon during the ſummer ſeaſon, arriving however later in the ſpring, and leaving the country earlier in autumn than any other of the pigeon tribe.

The conſtancy of the Turtle-dove to its mate is proverbial. They build in general in the thickeſt woods, forming their neſts on the branches of the loftieſt trees: like the reſt of the pigeons, they lay only two eggs; and, it is concluded, breed only once in a ſeaſon. Theſe birds are of a ſhy and timid diſpoſition, and ſeldom venture from their woody retreats in the day-time, unleſs in flocks of about twenty together. They ſubſiſt on berries, fruits, and various kinds of vegetables, and are eſpecially partial to peas, the fields of which they viſit as ſoon as the crop begins to ripen, and oftentimes commit vaſt depredations. There are ſeveral ſuppoſed varieties of this ſpecies, ſome of which may prove hereafter to be diſtinct kinds.

This is a bird of extremely beautiful plumage, and meaſures in length about twelve inches.

PLATE CXXVI.

HIRUNDO RIPARIA.

SAND MARTIN.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſmall, weak, incurvated, ſubulate, and depreſſed at the baſe: gape larger than the head: tongue ſhort, broad, and cleft: wings long: tail generally furcated.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous, throat and abdomen white.

HIRUNDO RIPARIA: cinerea, gula abdomineque albis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 273.
Kram. el. p. 381. *n.* 4.
Müll. Zool. p. 34. *n.* 289.

HIRUNDO RIPARIA. *Geſn. av.* 656.
Aldr. orn. 2. *p.* 694. *t.* 695.
Ray av. p. 71. *n.* 3.

Hirondelle de rivage. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 6. *p.* 632.—*Pl. enl. n.* 643. *f.* 2.

Uferſchwalbe.

PLATE CXXVI.

Uferſchwalbe. *Friſch. av. t.* 18.
Georg. it. p. 175.
Sand-Martin, or Shore-bird. *Arct. Zool. 2. p.* 430. *n.* 332.
Will. orn. p. 213. *t.* 39.

A ſmall bird of very delicate appearance, meaſuring rather leſs than five inches in length, and having the upper part of the plumage brown, the lower white. This little ſpecies inhabits various parts of Europe and America: in Britain, it may be conſidered, if not a rare, at leaſt a very local ſpecies.

The Sand-Martin, as its name implies, is in a great meaſure peculiar to ſandy places. Their uſual haunts are the ſides of ſand-banks contiguous to lakes and rivers, where they live in deep openings, dug in an horizontal courſe, and at the furtheſt end of which receſſes the neſt is depoſited. Sometimes the neſt of the Sand-Martin is built in cavities of rocks, ſand-pits, or hollow trees; almoſt invariably, however, on the banks of lakes or rivers, the old birds ſubſiſting, for the moſt part, on the inſects which it takes on the wing when ſkimming the ſurface of the water.

The neſt conſiſts of fibres of graſs, intermixed with ſtraw, and a few feathers: the eggs, about ſix in number, are of a beautiful white colour, and tranſparent. It cannot be abſolutely aſſerted whether the Sand-Martin has two, or only a ſingle brood in the year.

PLATE CXXVII.

MEROPS APIASTER.

COMMON BEE-EATER.

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill curved, quadrangular, compreſſed, carinate, pointed: noſtrils ſmall, at the baſe of the bill: tongue ſlender, the tip moſtly jagged: feet greſſorial.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Back ferruginous: abdomen and tail green-blue: two tail feathers longeſt: throat yellow.

MEROPS APIASTER: dorſo ferrugineo, abdomine caudaque viridi-cœruleſcente, rectricibus duabus longioribus, gula lutea. *Gmel. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 460.—*Linn. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 182. 1.

Merops galilæus. *Haſſelq. It.* 247.—*Fn. Arab. p.* 1.

Bienenfraas. *Wirſing. Vog. t.* 27.

La Merope. *Cet. uc. Sard. t. p.* 93.

Iſpida cauda molli. *Kram. El. p.* 337.

BEE-

PLATE CXXVII.

BEE-EATER. *Will. p.* 147.
Albin. 2. t. 44.
Linn. Tranſ. v. 3. *p.* 333.

The Common Bee-eater is a bird of very ſplendid plumage, the male in particular, the colours in that ſex being of a more vivid caſt than in the female. It has been denominated the European Bee-eater; a term not, perhaps, ſufficiently diſcriminate, ſince another ſpecies of the ſame genus, the Merops Congenor, is alſo found in Europe. Neither is the Merops Apiaſter peculiar to Europe: it extends both to Africa and Aſia: in Europe it is confined to ſouthern countries, and in Aſia to more temperate regions.

Till within the laſt few years, this ſpecies was altogether unknown as a native of Britain. The firſt account we have of its being met with in this country, is recorded in the third volume of the Linnæan Tranſactions, from which it appears, that a ſolitary example of the ſpecies was ſhot in the year 1794, and communicated to Dr. Smith.

This bird meaſures about ten inches, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail. Its food conſiſts of inſects of various kinds, more eſpecially thoſe of the bee tribe, in reference to which it bears the name of Bee-eater. Their neſts are ſaid to be compoſed of moſs, and to be depoſited, like that of the ſand-martin, in deep holes in the banks of rivers. The eggs are ſmaller than thoſe of a blackbird, of a white colour, and from five to ſeven in number.

PLATE CXXVIII.

PERDIX COTURNIX.

COMMON QUAIL.

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex and ſtrong: noſtrils with a prominent margin: orbits papillous: legs naked, and moſtly armed with a ſpur.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Legs unarmed: body grey, ſpotted: eye-brows white: tail feather with ferruginous edge and creſcent.

PERDIX COTURNIX: mutica, corpore griſeo maculato, ſuperciliis albis, rectricibus margine lunulaque ferruginea. *Lath. Ind. Orn. t.* 2. *p.* 651. *n.* 28.

TETRAO COTURNIX. *Linn. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 278. 20.—*Fn. Suec. No.* 206.—*Gmel. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 765.

Quaglia. *Zinnan. Uov. p.* 36. *t.* 5. *f.* 19.

Wachtel. *Gunth. Neſt. u. Ey. t.* 35.

La Caille. *Buff.* 2. *p.* 449. *t.* 16.—*Pl. enl.* 170.

Quail. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 320. *B.*

Albin, 1. *t.* 30.

Br. Zool. 1. *No.* 97.

PLATE CXXVIII.

The Quail is a ſmall bird, about ſeven inches and a half in length; the female differs from the male, in being deſtitute of the black ſpots on the fore part of the neck, breaſt, and lateral feathers, and in the rufous ſpace being paler.

This bird occurs in the greateſt plenty throughout Ruſſia, Tartary, China, and other parts of India, changing its ſituation in immenſe flocks according to the ſeaſons, in the ſpring proceeding northward, and returning ſouthward in autumn. In the iſlands of the Archipelago, and the ſouth of Europe, they appear at certain times in immenſe myriads. Twice in the year, it is ſaid, they come in ſuch vaſt abundance into the iſland of Capri, that the biſhop derives the chief part of his revenue from them; and on the weſt coaſt of the kingdom of Naples, within the ſpace of four or five miles, an hundred thouſand have been taken in a day. The Quail is not a common bird in this country, although it breeds with us: during the ſummer it is found in the northern counties, and migrates ſouth in autumn. Theſe birds feed on corn, and other grain.

PLATE CXXIX.

ANAS ACUTA.

PIN-TAIL DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuſe, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuſe : three fore toes ſolitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail pointed, elongated, and black beneath ; hind head on each ſide with a white line : back waved cinereous.

ANAS ACUTA : cauda acuminata elongata ſubtus nigra, occipite utrinque linea alba, dorſo cinereo undulato. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 126.

Anas cauda forcipata pedibus longiore, macula alarum cupreo-fuſca. *Kram. el. p.* 340.

Anas longicauda. *Briſ. av.* 6. *p.* 369. *n.* 16. *t.* 34. *f.* 1. 2.

Anas Seevogel. *Aldr. Orn.* 3. *p.* 229.

Canard à longue queue. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 9. *p.* 199. *t.* 13.—*Pl. Enl. N.* 954.

PLATE CXXIX.

SEA PHEASANT, or CRAKER. *Ray, av. p.* 147. *A.* 5.
PIN-TAIL. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 566. *n.* 500.
Brit. Zool. 2. *n.* 282.

A native of Europe, Aſia, and America. Sometimes theſe birds appear in ſmall flocks on the Engliſh coaſts during the winter ſeaſon, but depart again to the northward early in the ſpring. They are ſeen at this ſeaſon in Sweden and Denmark, and are ſuppoſed to breed in the north of thoſe kingdoms. They abound throughout the Ruſſian territories as far as Kamtſchatka, at which latter place they breed and live till the approach of winter. According to Decouver, the ſpecies appears at particular ſeaſons, in troops of ſeveral hundred together, on the borders of the river Don. It is likewiſe ſaid to breed at Hudſon's Bay, in America.

The male of the Pintail Duck is an intereſting bird, poſſeſſing, in addition to a beautifully varied plumage, a peculiar degree of elegance in its manners and general aſpect. Its length is twenty-eight inches, and weight twenty-four ounces. The female, as uſual in the duck tribe, ſmaller, and more duſky, and is in particular diſtinguiſhed by having a ſpot of ſtraw-colour on the wing inſtead of violet. The young males remain of a greyiſh brown, not very unlike the plumage of the females, till the ſpring after they are hatched, when they aſſume their proper plumage. The fleſh is excellent.

PLATE CXXX.

CORVUS MONEDULA.

JACKDAW.

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, acutely edged: noſtrils covered with ſetaceous recumbent feathers: tongue cartilaginous and bifid: feet formed for walking.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Blackiſh brown: hind head hoary: front, wings, and tail black.

CORVUS MONEDULA: fuſco nigricans, occipite incano, fronte alis caudaque nigris. *Gmel. Syſt. Nat.* 1. *p.* 367.—*Linn. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 156. 6.—*Fn. Suec. No.* 89.

Cornix garrula. *Klein. av. p.* 59. 4.

Dohle. *Gunth. Neſt. und Eyer. p.* 51. *t.* 11.

Taccola. *Cett. uc. Sard. p.* 72.

Mulacchia hera. *Zinnan. Uov. p.* 71. *t.* 10. *f.* 62.

Jackdaw. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 251. *C.*

Br. Zool. 1. *No.* 81. *t.* 34.

The

PLATE CXXX.

The Jackdaw, one of the moſt familiar and well-known birds of its tribe in this country, does not appear to be by any means ſo abundant throughout the reſt of Europe as ſome others which are leſs frequent with us. In England they are ſeen at all ſeaſons; in France and Germany, which countries they inhabit likewiſe, they are migratory. In Sweden and Denmark they are pretty conſtant inhabitants. The ſpecies occurs alſo in the weſtern part of Siberia, and a ſuppoſed variety extends as far as Perſia.

In a wild ſtate, the haunts of this bird are the moſt retired places among rocks, or ruined edifices, in the cavities of which they conſtruct their neſts: occaſionally they build in trees, but not commonly. Their eggs, from five to ſix in number, are of a paler colour, and have a ſmaller number of ſpots, than the hooded crow.

This ſpecies feeds on inſects, grain, and ſeeds. It is of a docile diſpoſition, and may be eaſily rendered tame, but invariably retains its pilfering inclinations even in a ſtate of domeſtication. The note of this bird is very peculiar:—an ejaculation of the words *Jakdaw, Jakdaw*, not indiſtinctly articulated, and repeated at regular intervals; this note is often heard while the bird is on the wing.

PLATE CXXXI.

PERDIX RUFA.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, and ſtrong: noſtrils with a prominent margin: orbits papillous: legs naked, and moſtly armed with a ſpur.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Legs and bill ſanguineous: chin white, ſurrounded with a black band, and ſpotted with white.

PERDIX RUFA. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 647. *n.* 12.

TETRAO RUFUS: pedibus roſtroque ſanguineis, gula alba cincta faſcia nigra albo-punctata. *Kram. el. n.* 357. *n.* 5.

TETRAO RUFUS: rectricibus cinereis, ſuperiore medietate hinc inde rufis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 171.

Perdix græca. *Briſſ. av.* 1. *p.* 241. *n.* 12. *t.* 23. *f.* 1.

Bartavelle. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 2. *p.* 420.

RED PARTRIDGE. *Albin. av.* 1. *p.* 27.

GREEK PARTRIDGE, or Great Red Partridge. *Will. Orn. p.* 169.

This

PLATE CXXXI.

This is a bird of conſiderable beauty, and is found in ſuch vaſt abundance in the iſland of Guernſey, as to have obtained the appellation of Guernſey Partridge. Birds of the ſame ſpecies have been alſo ſhot in a wild ſtate on the coaſts of Norfolk, Kent, and Suffolk, which latter circumſtances tend, in our minds, more fully to eſtabliſh its claim to a place in the Britiſh Fauna, than its being an indigenous inhabitant of Guernſey iſland. Some attempts have been made to naturalize the ſpecies in the ſouthern counties of England, which have not, however, been ultimately attended with the ſucceſs anticipated. The fleſh is in much eſteem, and the birds, for this reaſon, are often brought over to England from Guernſey, or, in times of peace, from France, to ſupply the tables of the affluent.

Throughout the whole of the ſouth of Europe, and alſo in Aſia and Africa, theſe birds occur in the greateſt plenty; ſo much, indeed, that in ſome of the Greek iſlands, the natives deſtroy as many of their eggs as poſſible, in order to diminiſh their numbers; a precaution highly neceſſary for the preſervation of their corn-harveſts, which often ſuſtain vaſt injury from their depredations, as theſe birds aſſociate in immenſe flocks, and ſubſiſt principally on grain during that ſeaſon. In many reſpects, their manners accord with thoſe of the common partridge, though, in the latter particular, they differ materially, the partridge being a ſolitary bird; and it is obſervable likewiſe, that the Red-legged Partridges occaſionally perch on trees, which is altogether unuſual with the common kind. There appears to be two or more varieties of this ſpecies of partridge.

PLATE CXXXII.

ANAS CLANGULA.

GOLDEN EYE DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuſe, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed and obtuſe: three fore toes connected, the hind one ſolitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Varied with black and white: head tumid, and violet; at each corner of the mouth a large white ſpot.

ANAS CLANGULA: nigro alboque varia, capite tumido violaceo: ſinu oris macula alba. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 192.—*It. oel.* 49.

CLANGULA. *Geſſn. av.* 119.—*Aldr. orn.* 3. *p.* 224.

Garrot. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 9. *p.* 222. *pl. enl. n.* 802.

Kobelente. *Friſch. av. t.* 183. 184.

Quakerente. *Bloch Beſch. der Berl. Naturf. Fr.* 4. *p.* 599. *n.* 9. *t.* 17. *fig.* 1. 2.

Smaller Reddiſh Duck. *Will. Orn. p.* 369.

Ray av. p. 143. *n.* 1.

PLATE CXXXII.

GOLDEN EYE. *Albin.* 1. *t.* 96.
Arct. Zool. 2. *p.* 557. *n.* 486.
Brit. Zool. 2. *n.* 276.

This ſpecies of Duck rather exceeds the common ſize, meaſuring nearly twenty inches in length, and weighing thirty ounces. This relates to the male only, the female being much ſmaller. The latter differs likewiſe very conſiderably in the colour of its plumage, which is principally of an obſcure brown, varied with black and aſh. The head is dark and reddiſh, the breaſt and belly white; the middle quill-feathers are alſo white, but the reſt of the wings, except the coverts and ſcapulars, in which the grey prevails, is black. The tail is of the laſt-mentioned colour; the legs duſky.

The Golden Eye is of the migratory kind, and viſits us only in the winter, at which ſeaſon it is ſeen in ſmall flocks on many of our ſea-coaſts. In the ſpring theſe birds retire northward, remaining, during the breeding ſeaſon, in Ruſſia, Norway, and Sweden. In America it is found throughout the ſummer in Hudſon's Bay, where it is obſerved to frequent freſh water lakes. Its principal food conſiſts of ſhell-fiſh, frogs, and other reptiles, mice, &c. The neſt, which is compoſed of graſs, and lined with feathers, is of a rounded form, the eggs from ſeven to ten in number, and white. Linnæus tells us, this ſpecies ſometimes builds in trees, a circumſtance rather ſingular, but nevertheleſs, we believe, correctly ſtated, as ſome other ſpecies of the duck tribe have been known to build occaſionally in the ſame or ſimilar ſituations.

PLATE

PLATE CXXXIII.

PELECANUS CARBO.

CORVORANT.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſtraight, hooked at the point, and furniſhed with a nail: noſtrils an obliterated ſlit: face rather naked: legs equally balancing the body: toes four, palmated.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail rounded: body black: head ſubcreſted.

PELECANUS CARBO: cauda rotundata, corpore nigro, capite ſubcriſtato. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 145.

Phalacrocorax. *Geſn. av.* 683.

Corvus aquaticus. *Aldr. Orn.* 3. *p.* 261. *t.* 263.

Cormoran. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 8. *p.* 310. *t.* 26.

Corvorant. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 581. *n.* 509.

Brit. Zool. 2. *n.* 291.

PLATE CXXXIII.

The Corvorant meaſures three feet in length, in breadth four feet, and weighs ſeven pounds.

Towards the northern parts of Europe theſe birds are more abundant than in the ſouth. They breed in Kamtſchatka, Greenland, Iceland, and other countries of the north, and from their habits of life are almoſt conſtantly found contiguous to the ſea. Their breeding-places are the higheſt and moſt inacceſſible cliffs impending over the ſea ſhore. It does not appear that they evince much ingenuity in the formation of a neſt, and they lay only about three or four eggs, which are the ſize of thoſe of a gooſe, and of a pale green colour. The Corvorant is an extremely voracious bird, and preys chiefly on fiſh, in purſuit of which it is continually ſeen ſwimming and darting into the water. The fleſh is very indifferent, and eaten only by the Greenlanders, who, however, are by no means partial to it, and their eggs are ſo diſguſting that they are never eaten. The ſkins, in common with thoſe of moſt other birds, furniſh the natives with an article of dreſs. In Britain the Corvorant is uncommon on the ſouthern coaſt, but is ſtill more abundant on the ſea coaſts of the northern counties.

In China the Corvorant is trained up for the purpoſe of fiſhing, in which employ they are very uſeful to the fiſhermen; many of whom keep ſeveral of them, and derive a good livelihood from their labours. Theſe birds are taught to plunge into the water at their maſter's command, and ſeize the fiſh in his bill, or with the bill and talons together, and bring it to his maſter; or if the fiſh be too large, two of the Corvorants aſſiſt each other. To enſure obedience, it is however neceſſary to faſten a ring round their necks, which prevents them from ſwallowing their prize; and when the buſineſs of fiſhing is over for the day, the maſter takes off the ring, and rewards them with

with a ſhare of the ſpoil. According to Willughby, this mode of taking fiſh was practiſed formerly in England: the Corvorants were inſtructed to dive into the water, and after laying the captive fiſh at the feet of his maſter, perch upon his arm. The beſt writers give little credit to this account, or conſider it as a rare inſtance, at leaſt, of the docile diſpoſition of the Corvorant. A leather thong was faſtened round the throat of the bird, which anſwered the ſame purpoſe as the ring put round their neck by the Chineſe.

PLATE CXXXIV.

MOTACILLA TROGLODYTES.

WREN.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſubulate, and ſtraight: the mandibles nearly equal: noſtrils oval: tongue lacerated at the end.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Grey: eyebrows white: wings waved with black and cinereous.

MOTACILLA TROGLODITES; griſea, alis nigris cinereoque undulatis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 261.
Scop. ann. 1. *n.* 239.
Nozem. nederl. Vogel. t. 58.

Regulus. *Briſſ. av.* 3. *p.* 425. *n.* 24.

Reattino. *Olin. ucc. t.* 6.

Roitelet. *Buff. pl. enl. n.* 651. *f.* 2.

Zaunkoenig. *Friſch. av. t.* 24. *f.* 3.

WREN. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 414. *n.* 322.
Ray av. p. 80. *n.* 11.
Brit. Zool. 1. *n.* 154.

This

PLATE CXXXIV.

This pretty little bird is eſteemed the ſmalleſt of the European ſpecies, the Golden Creſted Wren excepted. It inhabits the temperate parts of northern Europe, and the ſouth of Aſia.

The Wren remains in Britain throughout the year. The neſt is of an oval form, compoſed of moſs lined with feathers, and having a ſmall entrance in the middle. The female has two broods annually, one in April, the other in June, at each time laying from ten to ſixteen eggs, which are of a white colour, and marked at the end with reddiſh. Its neſt is commonly found affixed againſt outhouſes, or old walls, or, if built in the woods, ſtands generally on a low ſtump among buſhes near the ground.

The note of this bird is a pleaſing warble, heard at all ſeaſons of the year, but only in the day-time.

PLATE CXXXV.

ANAS FERRUGINEA.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuſe, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed and obtuſe; three fore toes ſolitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cheſnut, breaſt and belly paler; bill dilated and rounded at the tip; and with the legs blueiſh.

ANAS FERRUGINEA: ſpadicea, roſtro dilatato et apice rotundato pedibuſque cæruleſcentibus, *Gmel. Linn. Syſt. Nat.* 528. *n.* 99.

ANAS RITULA, *Fn. Suec. n.* 134.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK. *Arct. Zool. 2. p.* 576. *N. Lath. Syn. 3. 2. p.* 526. *n.* 71.

PLATE CXXXV.

This Duck is about the middle ſize, meaſuring in length fifteen inches, and weighing twenty ounces. The ſpecies has been found in the Swediſh rivers, and in Denmark, but very rarely. A ſolitary ſpecimen was killed in Lincolnſhire ſome years ago, a circumſtance recorded by Mr. Pennant in his Britiſh Zoology.

PLATE CXXXVI.

ALAUDA ARBOREA.

WOOD-LARK.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill cylindric, ſubulate, and ſtraight: the mandibles equal, and a little gaping at the baſe: tongue bifid: hind claw ſtraight, and longer than the toe.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER
AND
SYNONYMS.

Head ſurrounded by a white annular fillet.

ALAUDA ARBOREA: capite annulari alba cincto. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 3.—*Scop. Ann.* 1. *n.* 186.

Alauda rectricibus fuſcis: prima oblique dimidiato-alba, ſecunda, tertia quartaque macula alba cuneiformi. *Fn. Suec.* 1. *n.* 192.

Alauda arborea. *Briſſ. av.* 3. *p.* 340. *n.* 2. *t.* 20. *f.* 1.

Alouette de bois ou Cujelier. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 5. *p.* 25.—*Pl. enl.* 660. *f.* 2.

WOODLARK. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 395.
Ray av. p. 69. *n.* 2.
Albin. av. 1. *t.* 42.

PLATE CXXXVI.

The Woodlark is believed to be a general inhabitant of Europe and Siberia, extending as far as Kamtſchatka. In its general appearance it aſſimilates much more with the ſkylark, than in its manners of life, and is obſerved to be far leſs common than that ſpecies. The ſkylark delights in the open fields and meadows, the other is a more retired and timid bird, prefers woody ſituations, and often perches on trees, which the ſkylark never does. The Woodlark whiſtles like the blackbird, and, like the ſkylark, emits its note in flight; it ſings alſo during the night while perched on the boughs of trees.

Theſe birds build their neſt on the ground, and lay five eggs of a light colour, blotched with brown: the neſt, like that of the ſkylark, is compoſed of dry graſs, lined with ſoft hair. It pairs earlier in the ſeaſon than the ſkylark, and has two broods in the year.

PLATE CXXXVII.

PICUS MEDIUS.

MIDDLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill angular, ſtraight, cuneated at the tip: noſtrils covered with recumbent ſetaceous feathers: tongue round, worm-ſhaped, very long, and oſſeous, miſſile, daggered, and beſet at the point with briſtles bent back: tail feathers ten in number, hard, rigid, and pointed: feet climbers.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Variegated with black and white: crown crimſon: ſpace round the eyes and ſides of the neck white.

PICUS MEDIUS: albo nigroque varius, criſſo pileoque rubris. *Linn. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 176. 18.—*Fn. Suec. No.* 101.—*Gmel. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 436.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 229. *n.* 14.

Picus varius minor. *Ray. Syn. p.* 43. 5.

Picus varius. *Briſſ.* 4. *p.* 38. 14. *t.* 2. *f.* 1.

Der

PLATE CXXXVII.

Der mittlere Buntſpechte. *Wirſing. Vog. t.* 37.
Pic varié à tête rouge. *Buff. Pl. Enl.* 611.
Middle Spotted Woodpecker. *Arct. Zool. 2. p.* 278. *D. Brit. Zool.* 1. *No.* 86. *t.* 37.

A native of Europe; in its manners of life reſembling the reſt of its tribe, living chiefly in woods, and ſubſiſting principally on inſects, which it picks out of the trunks of decayed trees. Its length is about eight inches and a half.

Whether the Middle and the Greater Spotted Woodpeckers are of the ſame ſpecies, differing only in the tranſition of the plumage from an incomplete to a more perfect ſtate, or that it is in reality diſtinct, appears to have excited conſiderable doubts in the opinions of ornithologiſts; ſome contending they are, and others that they are not the ſame. It is poſſible the former ſurmiſe may be correct, though at the ſame time it cannot but be obſerved, that the characters of the two kinds appear ſufficiently conſtant and obvious to authoriſe a different concluſion. The principal diſtinction that prevails in the two birds conſiſts in the Middle Spotted Woodpecker having the whole crown of the head crimſon, while in the Greater Spotted, the crimſon ſpace is confined to a broad band on the hind head. The latter bird is rather larger, and meaſures half an inch more in the length than the other. Except the difference above-mentioned, the plumage in both pretty nearly alike.

PLATE

PLATE CXXXVIII.

FRINGILLA SPINUS.

SISKIN.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, ſtraight, and pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Quill feathers yellow in the middle, the firſt four without ſpots: tail feathers yellow at the baſe, and at the tip black.

FRINGILLA SPINUS: remigibus medio luteis: primis quatuor immaculatis, rectricibus baſi flavis apice nigris.
Linn. Fn. Suec. 237.
Scop. Ann. 1. *n.* 222.

Acanthus avicula. *Geſn. av.* 1.

Ligurinus. *Briſſ. av.* 3. *p.* 65. *n.* 4.

Tarin. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 4. *p.* 221.

Abadavine, *Albin. av.* 3. *t.* 76.

Zeiſchen. *Friſch. av. t.* 11.
Georg. it. p. 174.

SISKIN, or Aberdevine. *Brit. Zool.* 129. *t.* 53.

The

PLATE CXXXVIII.

The Siſkin is a pretty little ſpecies of the finch tribe, about the ſize of the common linnet: the crown of the male is black, the back greeniſh, and the throat brown: in the female the head and neck is greeniſh aſh, with brown ſpots, and the chin whitiſh. The plumage of the male is brighter than that of the female, though in other reſpects their appearance is not materially different.

This bird is common throughout moſt of the temperate countries of Europe: it occurs alſo in the weſtern and ſouthern parts of Ruſſia, but does not inhabit Siberia. In the winter ſeaſon it viſits Britain, and departs again in Spring. It feeds chiefly on ſeeds of various kinds, is of a docile diſpoſition, and breeds freely with the common canary-bird. Its note is indifferent, notwithſtanding many rank it among the birds of ſong.

PLATE CXXXIX.

PROCELLARIA PELAGICA.

STORMY PETREL.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill toothleſs, a little compreſſed, and hooked at the point: mandibles equal: noſtrils cylindrical, tubular, truncated, and placed at the baſe of the bill: feet palmated, three toed forward, and armed with a ſpur behind inſtead of back toe.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Black: rump white.

PROCELLARIA PELAGICA: nigra uropygio albo. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 142.—*Act. Stockh.* 1745. *p.* 93.—*Gmel. Linn. Syſt. Nat. t.* 1. *n.* 2. *p.* 561. *n.* 1.

Procellaria. *Briſſ. av.* 6. *p.* 140. *n.* 1. *t.* 13. *f.* 1.

Oiſeau de tempete. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 9. *p.* 327. *t.* 23.—*Pl. enl. n* 993.

PLATE CXXXIX.

PETEREL. *Cluſ. exot.* 368. *Damp. Voy.* 3. *p.* 97.
Stormfinch, or little Petterel. *Alb. av.* 3. *t.* 92.
Will. Orn. p. 395.
STORMY PETREL. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 536. *n.* 464.

This is our ſmalleſt kind of Petrel, being in ſize not larger than a ſwallow, and meaſuring in length only ſix inches. Theſe birds are ſeldom ſeen on land except in the breeding ſeaſon, but are met with in moſt latitudes at ſea; large flocks of them often ſettle about ſhips to reſt themſelves, eſpecially in the Atlantic ocean. When they fly low, and hover cloſe round the ſtern of the ſhip, it is conſidered by mariners as the certain prelude of a ſtorm.

The Stormy Petrel ſwims and dives extremely well, and is obſerved to remain much longer under water than almoſt any other bird. They are generally on the wing, ſkimming the ſurface of the waves, or dipping into the water. It is aſtoniſhing to ſee with what a perfect degree of ſafety this little creature can brave the perils of the tempeſt, gliding with the utmoſt velocity over the ſurface of the waves, then plunging into the deep, and riſing again upon the ſummits of the billows.

The food of theſe little birds appear to be the ſmall fiſh and marine worms which they catch in ſwimming or diving. In the night-time they are very noiſy, though ſeldom heard in the day, unleſs in cloudy weather. They are ſuppoſed to breed in the northern iſles of Scotland,

land. Stragglers have been occaſionally found inland, but very rarely. We poſſeſs one ſpecimen, formerly in the Leverian collection, which is affirmed to have been ſhot at Walthamſtow, in Eſſex.

PLATE CXL.

ANAS FULIGULA.

TUFTED DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuſe, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuſe : three fore toes connected; hind toe ſolitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Creſt pendent; body black : abdomen and wing ſpot white.

ANAS FULIGULA: criſta dependente, corpore nigro, abdomine ſpeculoque alarum albis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 132. —*Scop. ann.* 1. *n.* 78.—*Kram. el. p.* 341. *n.* 12.

Anas fuligula. *Geſn. Av.* 107.
Aldr. Orn. 3. *p.* 221.

Murillon. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 9. *p.* 227. 231. *t.* 15.—*Pl. Enl. n.* 1001.

TUFTED DUCK. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 573. *G.*
Br. Zool. 2. *n.* 274.

A winter

PLATE CXL.

A winter inhabitant of the Britiſh iſles. This bird is ſixteen inches in length; the male in general black, finely gloſſed with purple and green, with the belly white, and the creſt long and pendent. The female is like the male, except in having the colour of the plumage more inclining to brown, and being deſtitute of a creſt. In the young birds, the head, neck, and breaſt are cheſnut; the back, wings, and tail black.

The Tufted Duck inhabits moſt parts of Europe, and northern Aſia, viſiting, like many other of the Duck tribe, the ſouthern climates in winter, and retiring northward in the ſummer to breed; the fleſh is excellent.

PLATE CXLI.

TRINGA INTERPRES.

TURNSTONE.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundiſh, as long as the head: noſtrils ſmall, linear: tongue ſlender: feet four toed: the hind toe of one joint, and raiſed from the ground.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Legs red: body black, variegated with white, and ferruginous: breaſt and belly white.

TRINGA INTERPRES: pedibus rubris, corpore nigro, albo ferrugineoque vario, pectore abdomineque albo. *Linn. It. Gotl.* 217.—*Fn. Suec.* 178.—*Gmel. Linn. Syſt. Nat. t.* 1. *p.* 2. *p.* 671. *n.* 4.

Le Coulon-chaud. *Briſ. Orn.* 5. *p.* 132. 1.

Le Tourne-pierre. *Buff. Oiſ.* 8. *p.* 130. *pl.* 10.

TURNSTONE, or SEA DOTTEREL. *Ray Syn. p.* 112. *A.* 5. *Lath. Gen. Syn.* 3. *p.* 188. *n.* 37.

This

PLATE CXLI.

This ſpecies of Sandpiper is about eight inches and a half in length. It inhabits the ſea-coaſts both of Europe and America, and has obtained the name of Turnſtone from its peculiar method of turning up the ſtones on the ſea-ſhore by means of its bill, when in ſearch of the ſmaller littoral worms and fiſhes on which it feeds.

In Britain theſe birds are local, and almoſt confined to the moſt remote and unfrequented ſhores. It occurs at the extremity of the weſtern promontory about Penzance, on the northern ſhores of Wales, and in the Hebrides. They build only a ſlight neſt, which is depoſited on the ground, and lay four eggs of an olive colour, ſpotted with black. Theſe birds are ſeen moſt commonly in flocks of three or four together.

PLATE CXLII.

FRINGILLA CŒLEBS.

CHAFFINCH.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, ſtraight, and pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Limbs black: quill feathers white on both ſides, the three firſt without ſpots: two of the tail feathers obliquely white.

FRINGILLA CŒLEBS: artubus nigris, remigibus utrinque albis: tribus primis immaculatis, rectricibus duabus oblique albis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 232. *t.* 2. *f.* 199. —*Gmel. Linn. Syſt. Nat. t.* 1. *p.* 2. *p.* 901. *n.* 3.

Fringilla. *Geſn. av.* 387.—*Ald. Orn.* 2. *p.* 815.

Fringilla ſylvia. *Scop. Ann.* 1. *n.* 217.

Fringuello. *Olin. ucc. t.* 31.

Pinſon. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat.* 4. *p.* 109. *t.* 4.

PLATE CXLII.

CHAFFINCH. *Ray. av. p.* 88. *n.* 16.
Will. Orn. p. 253. *t.* 45.
Arct. Zool. 2. *p.* 381. *F.*
Brit. Zool. 1. *n.* 125.

One of the moſt abundant ſpecies of the Finch tribe found in Britain. The male Chaffinch is a bird of very beautiful, and elegantly varied plumage; the female more obſcure, and inclining to yellow; and it is alſo deſtitute of the vinaceous reddiſh hues conſpicuous on the breaſt, and other parts of the male bird.—There are numberleſs varieties of this ſpecies differing in the colours of their plumage, the moſt curious of which are thoſe either entirely white or black, or with the crown and collar white.

The Chaffinch is a native of Europe, and ſome parts of Aſia, and is more or leſs migratory in different countries. With us both ſexes are ſeen at all ſeaſons of the year, from whence it is concluded, that if they do migrate from Britain, it is only in a very partial degree. It is a ſingular circumſtance, that the males do not commonly migrate with the females, whole flocks of the latter being frequently ſeen in flight from one part to another, unaccompanied by any males. In Sweden in particular, it is well known, that they migrate in flocks to Holland every year, and conſtantly leave the males behind.

The neſt of this bird is compoſed of dried vegetables, fibres, and moſs, lined with hair, wool, or feathers, and is uſually

uſually found in the midſt of thickſet buſhes, at no great height from the ground. The eggs, five or ſix in number, are of a pale reddiſh grey, marked at the broadeſt end with blackiſh ſpots.

PLATE CXLIII.

PICUS TRIDACTYLUS.

NORTHERN THREE TOED WOODPECKER.

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill angular, ſtraight, cuneated at the tip: noſtrils covered with recumbent ſetaceous feathers: tongue round, worm-ſhaped, very long, and oſſeous, miſſile, daggered, and beſet at the point with briſtles bent back: tail feathers ten in number, hard, rigid, and pointed: feet climbers.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Variegated with black and white: legs three toed.

PICUS TRIDACTYLUS: albo nigroque varius, pedibus tridactylis. *Linn. Fn. Suec. No.* 103.—*Gmel. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 439. —*Borowſk. Nat.* 2. *p.* 138. 8.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *No.* 168. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 1. *p.* 243. *n.* 56.

The

PLATE CXLIII.

The Northern Three-toed Woodpecker is an inhabitant of the colder climates of Europe, as Sweden, Lapland, and Ruſſia, as far as the Don river. Towards the ſouth it extends to Auſtria and Switzerland, in the laſt of which it appears to be moſt frequent, the ſpecies delighting in the higheſt mountainous ſituations. The ſpecies, though ſo widely diffuſed, is not common, and in Britain particularly is very rare. A ſolitary individual of this kind was lately ſhot in the north of Scotland, upon the authority of which the ſpecies is inſerted among the migratory viſitants of the Britiſh iſles.

In point of ſize, this bird rather exceeds the greater ſpotted woodpecker in bulk, and meaſures in length nine inches: the female is the ſize of the male, and reſembles it in every reſpect, except in the colour of the crown, which in the male is yellow, and in the female white. Should the ſouthern three-toed woodpecker prove to be a variety of this ſpecies, as is generally believed, this is the only three-toed kind of woodpecker at preſent known, the reſt of the genus having four toes, two forward, and two behind.

PLATE CXLIV.

URIA GRYLLE.

BLACK GUILLEMOT.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſtraight, and ſubulate; the tip of the upper mandible ſlightly bent, the baſe ſub-plumoſe: noſtrils linear, and at the baſe: tongue nearly ſame length as the bill: legs compreſſed, tridactyle, and all placed forward.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Body deep black: wing-coverts white.

URIA GRYLLE. *Lath. Ind. Orn. 2. p. 797. n. 2.*

COLYMBUS GRYLLE: corpore atro, tectricibus alarum albis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 148.
Brun. No. 113.

Colymbus Grœnlandicus. *Klein. av. p.* 168. *2.*

Uria minor nigra, Columba Grœlandica. *Briſſ.* 6. *p.* 76. *3.*

Le Petit Guillemot noir. *Buff.* 9. *p.* 354.

Greenland Dove, or Sea Turtle. *Albin. 2. t.* 80.

Black Guillemot. *Arct. Zool. 2. No.* 437.
Br. Zool. 2, No. 236.

This

PLATE CXLIV.

This is a very ſcarce ſpecies in Britain. It is confined chiefly to the iſle of St. Kilda, and Baſs iſland in Scotland; and the Farn iſles on the coaſt of Northumberland, and has been alſo ſeen on the rocks in the north of Caernarvonſhire, but rarely. To the north of Europe, as far as Greenland, this bird occurs in vaſt numbers. The principal food is fiſh, in purſuit of which it dives and ſwims with ſingular dexterity. Theſe birds have a moſt awkward gait in walking; in flight they appear moſtly in pairs, the male accompanying the female.

The length of this bird is about fourteen inches: the plumage very deep black, with a white patch more or leſs obſcured with duſky ſpots, according to the age of the bird, and the legs ſcarlet. The plumage is alſo obſerved to vary much in different ſeaſons, as well as in the younger birds, the black being often intermixed with duſky brown, and whitiſh. Theſe birds breed in crevices of the rocks in maritime ſituations, and lay either one or two eggs, the ſize of thoſe of the common hen, the colour white, with grey patches, and ſpots of black.

PLATE CXLV.

STURNUS VULGARIS.

COMMON STARLING.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſubulate, angular, depreſſed, bluntiſh; the upper mandible entire, ſomewhat open at the edges: noſtrils ſurrounded with a prominent rim: tongue notched, pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill yellowiſh: body black, with white dots.

STURNUS VULGARIS: roſtro flaveſcente, corpore nigro punctis albis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 213.—*Gmel. Linn. Syſt. Nat. t.* 1. *p.* 2. *p.* 801. 1.

Sturnus. *Geſn. av.* 747.
Aldr. Orn. 2. *p.* 631.

Storno. *Ol. ucc. t.* 18.

Etourneau. *Buff. Hiſt. Nat,* 3. *p.* 176. *t.* 15.

Stare, or Starling. *Ray av. p.* 67. *n.* 1.
Brit. Zool. 1. *n.* 104.

PLATE CXLV.

The common Starling is from eight inches and a half to nine inches in length; the male rather larger than the female, and brighter in the colours of the plumage; the prevailing colour is blackiſh, in ſome parts brown, very ſplendidly gloſſed with purple, green, and gold, and ſpotted nearly throughout with milky white.

The Starling is a native of Europe, Aſia, and Africa, and is ſeen in Britain in large flocks during the winter ſeaſon. They build in the hollows of decayed trees, rocks, and ruined edifices, forming a neſt of very ſlight contexture, conſiſting of leaves and twigs: their eggs are from five to ſix in number, and of a greeniſh-aſh colour. In a wild ſtate, they feed on inſects, and various kinds of grain: they are of a docile diſpoſition, and eaſily taught to ſpeak. During the winter ſeaſon, they are not unfrequently killed in vaſt numbers, and expoſed for ſale in the markets, notwithſtanding that the fleſh is bitter, and ill flavoured.

PLATE CXLVI.

CHARADRIUS CALIDRIS.

SANDERLING PLOVER, OR CURWILLET.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundiſh, obtuſe, ſtraight: noſtrils linear: feet formed for running, and three-toed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill and legs black: lores and rump greyiſh; body beneath white, without ſpots.

CHARADRIUS CALIDRIS: roſtro pedibuſque nigris, loris uropygioque ſubgriſeis, corpore ſubtus albo immaculato. *Georg. It. p.* 172.

Calidris griſea minor. *Briſſ. av. 5. p. 236. n. 17. t. 20. f. 2.*

Sanderling, or Curwillet. *Brit. Zool. n. 212. t. 73.—Ray av. p. 109. n. 11.—Will. Orn. p. 303.—Lath. Syn. 3. 1. p. 197. n. 4.*

PLATE CXLVI.

The name of Sanderling is indiſcriminately applied, by different writers, to two very diſtinct birds of the Grallæ order, namely, the Common Purre, or Ox-bird (Tringa Cinclus) and the preſent ſpecies, Charadrius Calidris; and to obviate miſunderſtanding in this reſpect, it is conceived the latter may, with ſome propriety, be denominated the Sanderling Plover.

About eight inches is the uſual length of this bird: its colours above cinereous, with the head, back of the neck, and ſides of the breaſt, daſhed with black ſtreaks: wings greyiſh and brown, with the edges of the feathers pale, and quill feathers duſky: tail browniſh, with pale margins. The ſpecies is ſubject to occaſional variation in the colour of the plumage.

Theſe birds appear in ſmall flocks on the ſandy ſhores of Cornwall during the winter ſeaſon; and are rarely obſerved, it is believed, on any other part of the Engliſh coaſt. On the continent of Europe the ſpecies is not common; in North America it is more abundant.

PLATE CXLVII.

ANAS COLLARIS.

COLLARED DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, and obtuſe, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed, obtuſe: three fore toes connected, the poſterior one ſolitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

ANAS COLLARIS. Black-brown: beneath white: head gloſſed with green-violet: neck encircled with a ſub-ferruginous ring: wing-ſpot cinereous.

A ſpecimen of this curious Duck occurred to us in the month of January, 1801, among a number of other wild fowl expoſed for ſale in Leadenhall-market, London; and ſo far as we have been hitherto able to determine, it appears to be not only new as a Britiſh bird, but altogether undeſcribed. Its ſize rather exceeds that of the common widgeon. The colour above is blackiſh, as is likewiſe the head and neck, the former of which is richly gloſſed with purple and green, and

and the latter ſurrounded in the middle with a pretty and very diſtinct collar of deep ferruginous: the lower part of the throat, and upper part of the breaſt, are black; the belly white, mottled with duſky towards the poſterior end, and in the region of the vent deep fuſcous. The bill and legs duſky. This bird is certainly of the male ſex, and is ſuppoſed to have been taken in the fens of Lincolnſhire.

PLATE CXLVIII.

ALAUDA MINOR.

FIELD-LARK.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill cylindrical, ſubulate, and ſtraight: the mandibles equal, and a little gaping at the baſe: tongue bifid: poſterior claw ſtraight, and longer than the toe.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER
AND
SYNONYMS.

Reddiſh brown, ſpotted beneath: chin and belly white: throat and breaſt obſcure yellow: exterior edge of the two outer tail feathers white.

ALAUDA MINOR: ex rufeſcente fuſca, rectricibus extimis duabus extrorſum albis. *Gmel. Linn. Syſt. Nat. t.* 1. *p.* 2. *p.* 793. *n.* 12.

ALAUDA MINOR: rubro-fuſca ſubtus maculata, gula abdomineque albis, jugulo pectoreque obſcure flaveſcentibus. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. *p.* 494. 8.

LESSER FIELD LARK. *Will. Orn. p.* 207.

FIELD LARK. *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 395. *D.*
Brit. Zool. No. 139.

Inferior

PLATE CXLVIII.

Inferior in ſize to the ſky-lark, and larger than the tit-lark, forming, in this reſpect, an intermediate ſpecies between the two.

The Field-lark, in the general aſpect of its plumage, reſembles the tit-lark; its colour reddiſh brown, with duſky ſpots; the chin and belly white; throat and breaſt yellowiſh, daſhed with duſky. In its haunts and manners of life, it bears more affinity to the wood-lark, preferring woody ſituations, and often perching on trees. Its note is diſtinct and melodious. The neſt is ſaid to be moſt commonly built on the ground, or among the loweſt buſhes.

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FINIS.

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